



## **2010 Mayor's Youth Committee graduation**

Congratulations to the 2010 Mayor's Youth Committee (MYC) graduates! Twenty-one juniors and seniors from all six Mesa high schools completed the rigorous program that began in September with 36 students. MYC is a year-long program in which students attend monthly meetings, participate in community service projects and learn the ins and outs of city government.

"These students are a great example of the high quality youth we have in Mesa," Mayor Smith said. "They have shown an incredible commitment to making a positive difference in our City."

The students interact with the Mayor, City Council members and City departments such as Neighborhood Services, Transportation, Police and Fire.

The major project for MYC is the Mayor's Assignment. The students are broken up into groups and each group is given a topic to debate with the Mayor and City Council members as an audience who determines the winner. Topics this year included illegal immigration, Mesa Gateway development, light rail extension and alternative energy.

"These are not softball assignments," Mayor Smith said. "The assignment takes time, research and serious consideration because these are real issues facing the City. These students were up to the task."

The winning team this year was the Mesa Gateway group. They were treated to a Cubs spring training game with Mayor Smith where they met Congressman Harry Mitchell and caught a foul ball.

The top few students were selected to attend Youth Leadership Day at the Capitol. Along with attending the conference-style sessions, the students were able to meet with Mesa legislators and get a tour of the House of Representatives by Representative Rich Crandall. They watched bills move through the House and saw both the Republicans and Democrats caucus.

Graduation requires attendance to at least six MYC meetings, three subcommittee meetings, one City Council meeting, one advisory board meeting and 30 hours of community service.

For more information about the Mayor's Youth Committee and photos from this year's program go to <http://mesaaz.gov/citymgt/mayorcc/mayor/MYC.aspx>.